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THE RAGTIMER

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

1985

PUBLISHED BY

THE RAGTIME SOCIETY

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF CLASSICAL RAGTIME

COMMERCIALLY PUBLISHED FOLIOS

Price includes postage and handling

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RAGTIME...
UNDER YOUR HAT

FOUNDED 1962
INCORPORATED 1970

THE RAGTIME SOCIETY
INCORPORATED

is a non-profit corporation having the following objects;

To preserve classical ragtime music and to pursue such other activities as shall serve to maintain and develop interest in classical ragtime music and music related thereto.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1985

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The 1985 Ragtime Bash was lacking a tall, erect fellow with an infectious grin called Bill McCrostie, but he was there in more than spirit. John Arpin announced that a musical competition is being organized in memory of the Society's former vice-president and managing director who died last January.

Details are to be announced early in 1986, but your directors wanted ragtime composers to have as much advance notice as possible.

The key qualification for the composition is that it be original (which Bill was, of course). To enter the competition, one must be a member of the Society.

Judging will be done by a committee of well-known ragtimers chaired by the Society's president, John Arpin. The winner will be announced at the 1986 Ragtime Bash (or shortly before), and you can expect to see the composition in the pages of the Ragtimer shortly after.

Our final Ragtimer for this year is one you will want to keep in a special place. Our editor, Jack Hutton, has spent months researching the first solo pianist to record "The Maple Leaf Rag" -- the late Willie Eckstein of Montreal whom Eubie Blake described as one of the best he'd heard.

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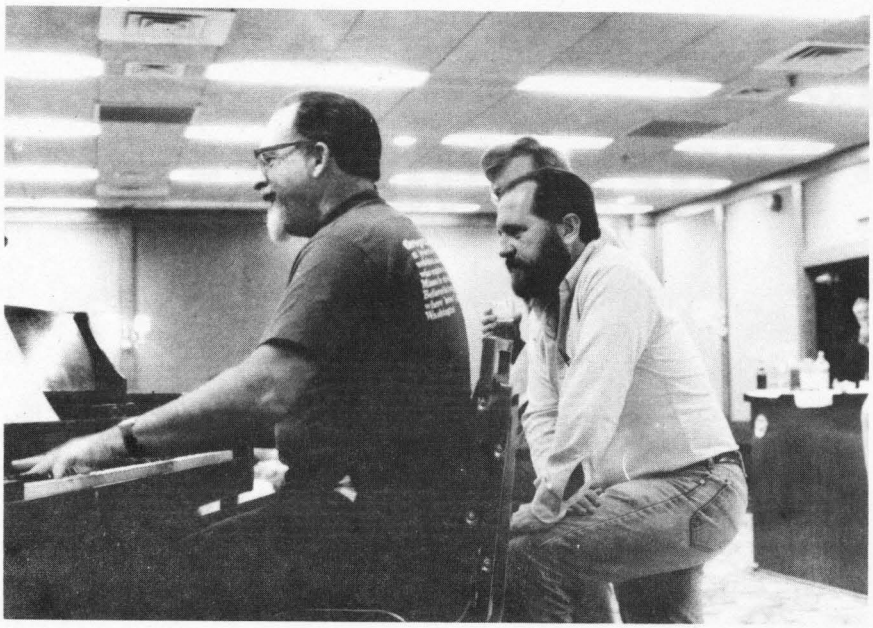
A RAGTIME PROFESSOR!



That's how Jack Hutton describes DAVID WRIGHT, sharing his favorites at the 1985 Ragtime Bash with William Shea and Glenn Jenks

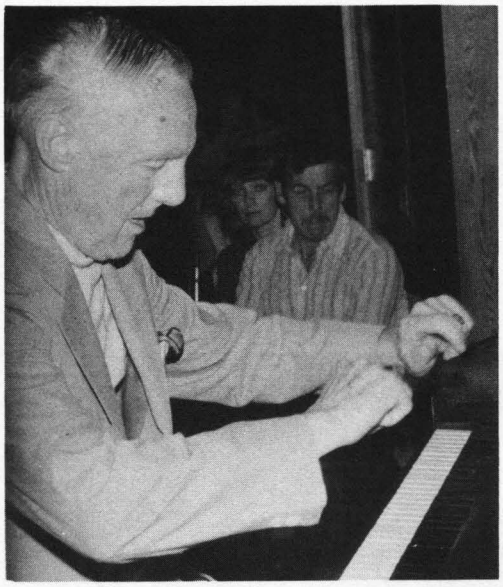
I couldn't resist taking the picture above of David Wright sharing his renditions of James Scott with fellow ragtimers William Shea and Glenn Jenks during an informal Sunday afternoon session at the 1985 Ragtime Bash. Every Bash has its highlights, but that one picture says it all. When David Wright plays one of his many ragtime favorites, you sense immediately that you are listening to someone who would have been ranked as a "ragtime professor" by his peers 50 years ago. In fact, he is Professor David to me right now.

It has been a long time since anyone has played Joplin's "Treemonisha" at the Bash, but it was worth the wait. From the moment that David started, you heard a lifetime of affection for the music coming through his fingers. (I also enjoyed his trademarks: the red beret and the neatly filed reduced photocopies that accompany him everywhere)

Actually, I had to hear about "Treemonisha" second-hand. I had to leave immediately after my Saturday evening contribution to sub at the last moment for a sick musician friend (switching from ragtime to Teddy Wilson) and missed everything that followed. Therefore, my impressions of the Bash are based upon what I heard Saturday afternoon and early evening, what others told me, and the splendid informal performances on Sunday afternoon.

Since this is probably the last year I'll be putting together the Bash issue as editor, I'll share a small secret. For the last five years I have listened to the program over and over in my mind -- regardless of which parts I missed -- during the hours that it takes to crop all the Bash pictures and assemble them (some of you may have noticed my attempts to give you equal space, right down to the centimetres). In this issue, I heard "Dixie Kisses" while Rosemary Renaud's photo snuggled beside Elizabeth Lash's. I tucked Glenn Jenks into a corner and heard his "Desperation Tango" (magificently sub-titled: "So You Think You've Got Problems"). As Joy Kocher settled down beside our Seattle treasure, Gloria Ekrom, I distinctly heard the strains of Chopin's "Revolutionary Etude" (Joy played Lamb's "Ragtime Nightingale", which borrows its opening from Chopin) I was forever grateful to Don Scott for playing Max Morath's "One for Amelia", because it reminded me of the beautiful lady whom we all missed this year -- Amelia Lamb, Joe's widow.

I listened to Tim Sandor and sister Sandra Williams play "Nola" (in my mind only, of course) and thought how composer Felix Arndt would have enjoyed hearing that in person. I also wondered how many Society members know that Arndt, who died in his late '20's, inspired a kid song plugger, not many years younger than himself, to write his first composition. Gershwin's "Rialto Ripples" (played by John Arpin and Catherine Wilson) never made the same splash as "Nola", but there were the two tunes on the same Bash program! I savoured that delicious ragtime coincidence. As I eased Don Scott into place beside Frank Wittmann, I looked over at Frank's manuscript of "Autumn Rag" that recently arrived at my Toronto door as a pre-Christmas surprise. (A prediction: some day, we'll see a folio of Frank's music and be proud that we heard it first)



Ernie Totten *George Foley, Idamay and Allen MacInnes*

Speaking of professors, that's Ernie Totten above at the left, retired from Toronto's Forest Hill Collegiate Institute where he was for many years one of the city's most respected teachers. (I'll never find out which chord his hands were aimed for because photographer Phil Hayes snapped this photo during an informal session. Brian Towers, in the background, obviously shared my suspense) At the top right, one of my favorite piano players, George Foley, may have been talking about his recently recorded "Rush Hour" composition with Idamay and Allen MacInnes, whose Toronto home was the founding location of the Ragtime Society in 1962. (In my mind, I hear duets that George and I have played in the MacInnes back room)

Finally, I heard all over again the virtuoso Rudy Weidoeft C-melody saxophone of Jim Weber and realized that my Rainbow Gardens colleague has blown his cover forever. A highly respected perfectionist, Jim Weber has tended to be in the background of pit bands or sax sections, playing behind some of the best-known soloists or leaders here and in England. I suspect he even feels a bit naked in the front line of a group like the Rainbow Gardens. The secret is now out, however, that no one anywhere plays the music of Rudy Weidoeft and Jimmy Dorsey with more authority or affection. I'd like to blow his cover even more by sharing our duo with festival audiences below the border. Any takers?

-- Jack Hutton

Meanwhile, also seen at the Bash:

. Zell Connell McCrostie, a member of the Ragtime Society's board of directors, enjoyed a moment with pianist Janet Shaw, centre, and trombonist extraordinaire Brian Towers.

. For shame! No one took a picture of Society vice-president Pel Bell Smith, who deserves kudos for organizing a tremendous Bash -- his first as VP and managing director -- so here's one from a mini-bash with impromptu torch singer Betty Miquelon.

THE ABSOLUTELY SPLENDID 1985 RAGTIME BASH

Master of Ceremonies: JOHN ARPIN
Official Photographer: PHILIP HAYES

Note: All performances are piano solo unless otherwise designated

JOHN ARPIN	Mississippi Rag
GERRY VONDY	Bucksnort Stomp
MURRAY CLELAND	Ragtime Chimes
JOAN HAYES	Solace
WILLIAM SHEA	Dusty
ROSEMARY RENAUD	Dixie Kisses
JEFF WILLIAMS	Southern Beauties
ELIZABETH LASH	Thoroughbred Rag
REIDE KAISER	Pink Poodle
SANDRA WILLIAMS	Bethena Waltz
SANDRA WILLIAMS &TIM SANDOR (duet)	NOLA
TIM SANDOR	Sheik of Araby
JO-ANN RAS	Bohemia

JACK CUFF	Triangle Jazz Blues
MARY JANE ESPLEN	Eugenia
JACK HUTTON & JIM WEBER (piano and C-melody saxophone)	Saxophobia, Saxotrix, Saxodoodle (a tribute to Rudy Weidoeft and ragtime saxophone)

-- Short intermission --

A musical pot-pourri in the Peel Room: various performers and musical selections

-- Dinner intermission: music provided by the Rainbow Gardens Jazz Orchestra (cornet and vocals, Al Bird; alto saxophone, clarinet, John Sannen; tenor, bass saxophone, Jim Weber; trombone, Keith Honeywell; drums, Hugh Baker; piano, Jack Hutton; guitar, banjo, vocals, Willie Wilson; bass, leader Ric Giorgi)

YVONNE CLOUTIER	Classical Rag
YVONNE CLOUTIER & TIM SANDOR	Frigid Frolics
JACK HUTTON	Soda Fountain Rag, Ragging the Scale
CATHERINE WILSON	Pineapple Rag
CATHERINE WILSON & JOHN ARPIN	Rialto Ripples
BESS FELL	Maple Leaf Rag
ROBERT CRAFT JR.	Bittersweet Rag
JOY KOCHER	Ragtime Nightingale
AUSTIN KITCHEN	Missouri Romp
GLORIA EKROM	Eat and Grow Thin (piano and vocal)
GARY BARRATT & ROSS MacLACHLAN (Dr. Drums & The Ragtime Kid)	Vitality Rag
LOUISA CASTNER & CHARLES CASTNER	Going to Toronto Romp (duo piano boogie)
FRANK WITTMANN	Autumn Rag
DAVE WRIGHT	Medley from Treemonisha
GLENN JENKS	Gladiolus
JANET SHAW & BRIAN TOWERS	Trombone Charlie (piano and trombone)
DON SCOTT	One For Amelia
RICHARD BERRY	Crush Collision March
ROGER BROADBENT	Bethena Waltz
BEN CONROY	Boogie Woogie Stomp
NORMAN BARKER	Something Doing
CHARLES DAVIS	Hollywood Stars
WAYNE ADAMS (banjo)	Barnyard Shuffle
PETER DUPUY	T'Ain't Good
JEAN & PAUL HULING "Sister Jean The Ragtime Queen & Laundry Fat"	Soap Suds Rag (piano & washboard)
GEORGE FOLEY	Hot Hands
JOHN ARPIN	Musical Tribute to Eubie Blake
JOHN ARPIN & GEORGE FOLEY	Lily Rag (two pianos)

End of formal program

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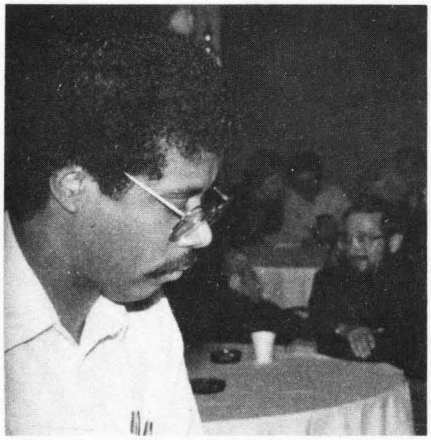


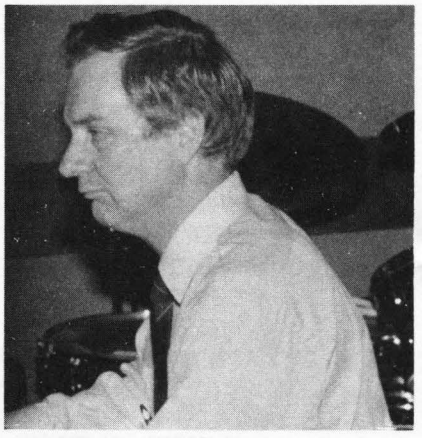
RICHARD BERRY

ROBERT CRAFT

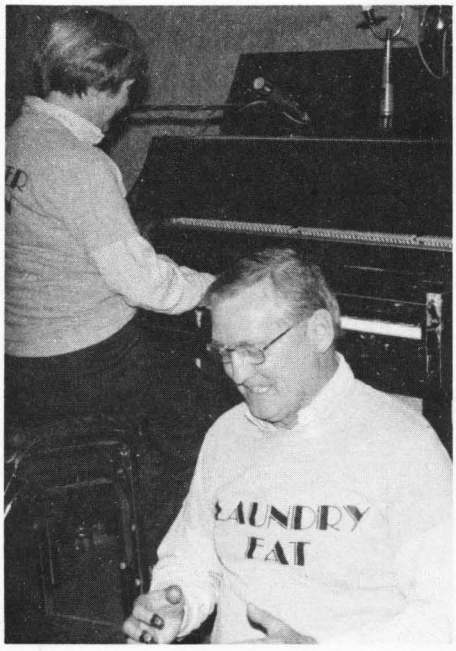
MARY JANE ESPLEN

BEN CONROY

CHARLES DAVIS



NORM BARKER



JEAN AND PAUL HULING

JACK HUTTON and JIM WEBER
a tribute to Rudy Weidoeft

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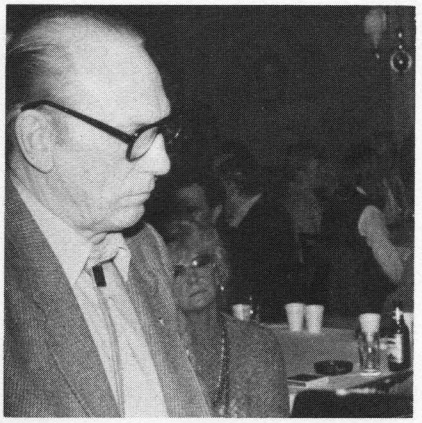
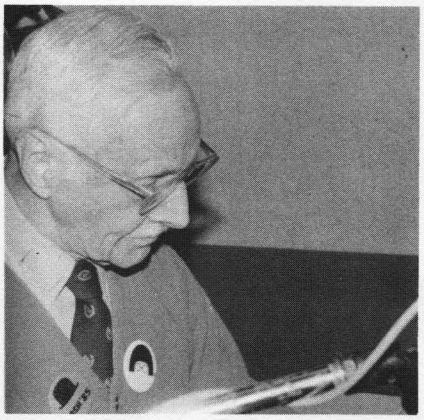
JACK CUFF

BESS FELL



AUSTIN KITCHEN

GERRY VONDY



MURRAY CLELAND

WILLIAM SHEA

ROSEMARY RENAUD

ELIZABETH LASH

JEFF WILLIAMS

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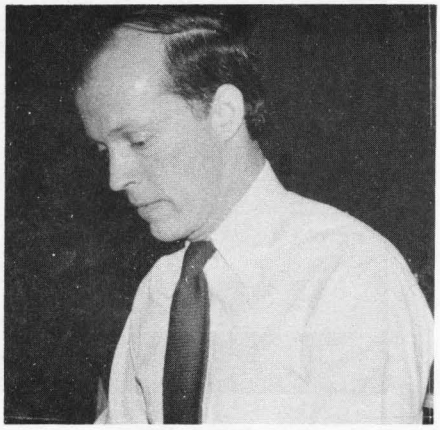
DAVID WRIGHT



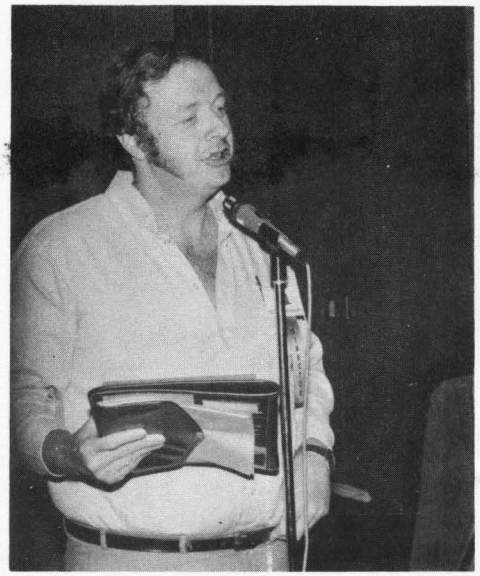
PETER DUPUY

WAYNE ADAMS

GARY BARRATT & ROSS MacLACHLAN
(Dr. Drums & The Ragtime Kid)

The RAINBOW GARDENS JAZZ ORCHESTRA

recreated the Jean Goldkette rendition of "Miss Clementine from New Orleans"(above) in a dinner program that ranged from Ellington ("The Mooche") and Waller ("Let's Break the Good News") to novelty obscurities ("Washing Dishes with my Sweetie" and "Susie of the Islands") and the Rhythm Boys version of "Them There Eyes". Left to right: JIM WEBER, tenor, bass sax, clarinet; WILLIE WILSON, vocals, guitar, banjo; JOHN SANNEN, alto sax, clarinet; JACK HUTTON, piano; AL BIRD, vocals, cornet; KEITH HONEYWELL, trombone. Not seen: HUGH BAKER, drums; leader RIC GIORGI, bass. The group dedicated Eubie Blake's "Memories of You" to GORDON VOGT, the RGO's long-time drummer/vocalist who died last July 10.



PETER GROSSKURTH

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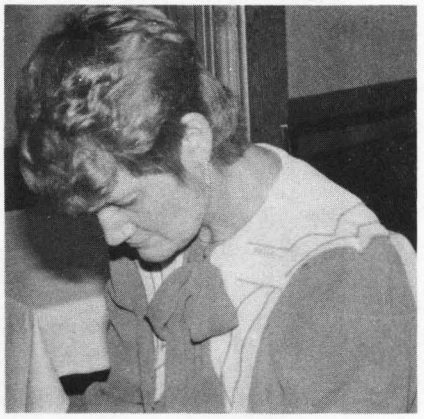
REIDE KAISER

TIM SANDOR

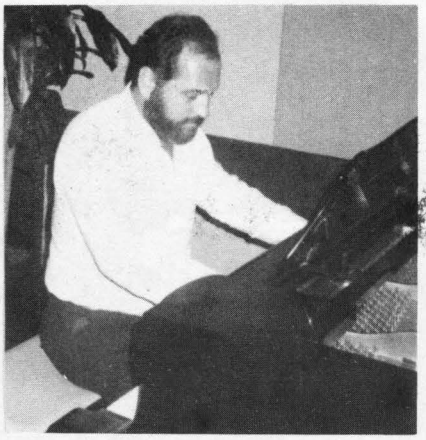
CATHERINE WILSON

JOY KOCHER

GLORIA EKROM



JO-ANN RAS



GLENN JENKS

FRANK WITTMANN

DON SCOTT

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Society President JOHN ARPIN with
JOAN HAYES (left) and YVONNE CLOUTIER

ROGER BROADBENT

Brother and sister:
TIM SANDOR and SANDRA WILLIAMS

How's this for

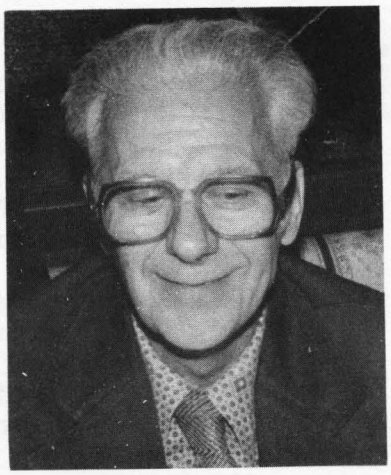
ALL IN THE

FAMILY!

Daughter and father:
LOUISA CASTNER and CHARLIE CASTNER

Daughter and father
ISABELLE STEWART and JACK CUFF

SOMETHING DOING



By Elmer Renaud

Elmer Renaud always has hot-off-the-press news about the changing locales of ragtimers. That's why we know John Arpin will be performing in one of his rare public concerts next March 23rd at Roy Thomson Hall. Now if Elmer could only figure out where Bob Darch will be in 1986! (Performers can contact Elmer Renaud at 68 Hillside Drive, Apt.207, Toronto, Ont., Canada M4K 2M4)

JOHN ARPIN STOP-PRESS-NEWS: John Arpin will be playing a concert at Roy Thomson Hall in Toronto on March 23, 1986 ... more details in our next issue. Meanwhile, the pianist whom Eubie called "the Chopin of ragtime" can be found from 8:30 p.m. on, Monday to Saturday, at the King Edward Hotel's Consort Lounge in the centre of Toronto.

MEL COLLIE A frequent banjo performer at recent Bashes, Mel performs frequently around Toronto, usually at the Jack Russell Pub, 27 Wellesley St. East, Toronto. He has added a bass to his group, the Entertainers, (now banjo, piano, bass and drums)

ROBERT R. (RAGTIME) DARCH -- There is no more tireless global ambassador for ragtime than Ragtime Bob Darch, who uses the world for a concert stage. The last that we heard from him was a postcard in late 1985, postmarked Copenhagen, Denmark. In mid-summer, he embarked on a five-month tour of 15 countries and two principalities.

CHARLES B. DAVIS JR. (The Tar-Heeled Tickler) Charles plays each Friday evening from 5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. at the Jacksonville Country Club, Jacksonville, North Carolina, ("Although this is a private club, I have the privilege of bringing guests," Charles advises. "If you are in the neighbourhood, call me at 353-2872 and I am sure we can get together.")

GEORGE FOLEY this stand-out performer at many previous Bashes has just produced his second record ("I Love It" is both the title and a ragtime obscurity on the record). You'll find George in Cleveland at East Side Mo's, Routes 306 and I.90, Mentor, Ohio --Tuesday and Thursday, 7:00 to 11:00, Friday, 8:30 to 12:30, Saturday, 9:00 to 1:00. Elbon Cafe, Cleveland Heights, Ohio, Wednesday, 8:00 to 11:00./

DAVE FLOWITT will be playing with banjo wonder "BORGY" BORGERSON at the Jolly Friar, 5319 Yonge Street, Toronto, January 8, 1986, starting 8 p.m., and every Wednesday and Saturday thereafter until the end of February.

KERRY GOWER is the featured pianist/vocalist with the PAINT CREEK JAZZ SOCIETY at Nealee's on the Hill, Tiemkin Road, Rochester, Michigan, Friday and Saturday 9:00-1 a.m. winter hours (9:30 - 1:30 a.m., summer hours). The Saturday personnel includes Chuck Moss, trombone, Dave Tatroe, clarinet, Bill Bolle, bass, Rick Bryant, drums, and Kerry on piano.

WALT GOWER Plays clarinet at the Woodbridge Tavern, St. Aubin and Woodbridge, Detroit, Michigan with St. Aubin Street Ramblers every Saturday and alternate Fridays (9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.). Bob Milne plays piano Saturday nights; Linda plays the alternate Fridays (as noted below in SOMETHING DOING)

DAN GRINSTEAD a welcome and impressive newcomer at the '83 Bash, can be heard in the Seattle, Washington, area.

JEAN AND PAUL HULING (Sister Jean, the Ragtime Queen and Laundry Fat) Playing every Saturday, 9 p.m.- 1 a.m., Cleaveland Crate and Trucking Co. Restaurant, Cleveland, Ohio, with Ralph Cruegel's New Eagle Jazz Band.

DICK HYMAN is back in his regular Monday night stint at Hanratty's, 1754 Second Ave. at 91st Ave. (212-289-3200),a folksy East Manhattan bar where sports buffs stare stolidly at TV in the front section and jazz fans listen to piano in the small dining room at the rear. (The exception is when Dick Wellstood is performing; between sets he joins the front room TV watchers!) There is a $5 cover charge per person, well worth it. (Tell Dick you're a Society member and you'll suddenly hear Confrey as only Dick Hyman can play it)

GLENN JENKS is a must if you're visiting the Maine-New Hampshire area (why not call Glenn at 207-236-2789 to find where he is playing?)

JOHNNY MADDOX Playing at Il Porto Restaurant, 121 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia, Tuesday-Saturday.

MIKE MONTGOMERY Playing at the Dakota Inn Rathskeller, 17324 John R St., Detroit, Mi (near Woodward and McNichols) on Friday nights between 8 p.m. and 1:30 a.m. Mike is there most Friday nights, but call 313-867-9722 to make sure if you're planning a visit.

BOB MILNE Woodbridge Tavern, Woodbridge Street, Detroit, Michigan, Dixieland band, 8 p.m.-1:30 a.m. every Saturday night Linda Milne plays with the Dixieland band alternate Fridays, 9:30 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. (259-0578)

BOB AND LINDA MILNE — Real Seafood Co., Portside Mall, Summit Street, Toledo, Ohio, 12:00-2; 5 p.m.-9 p.m., Sunday

NEW BLACK EAGLE JAZZ BAND (Pianist is Bob Pilsbury; Eli Newberger is tuba player and occasional pianist) Plays every Thursday, 7:30 -11 p.m. at Sticky Wicket Pub, Hopkinton, MA.

RAINBOW GARDENS JAZZ ORCHESTRA The group now plays every Saturday night at Dimple's, 725 Queen Street East (465-2119; reservations recommended for dinner). For the second year in a row, the RGO is welcoming New Year's Guy Lombardo-style on the cross-Canada CBC radio network (Morningside, Dec. 31, 11 a.m.), talking about almost forgotten Canadian big bands of the 20's and 30's with host Peter Gzowski. CONCERT: Sunday, Jan. 26, 1986, Sudbury, St. Andrew's Concert Series.

SI RICHARDS Plays Wednesdays 7 p.m. to 12 p.m. and Thursdays 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Chung's Restaurant, 21080 Lorain Road, Fairview Park, Ohio 44126 (216-333-3070). Or you'll find Si on Friday nights at the Cleveland Yachting Club, 200 Yacht Club Drive, Rocky River, Ohio 44116 (216-333-1155) between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

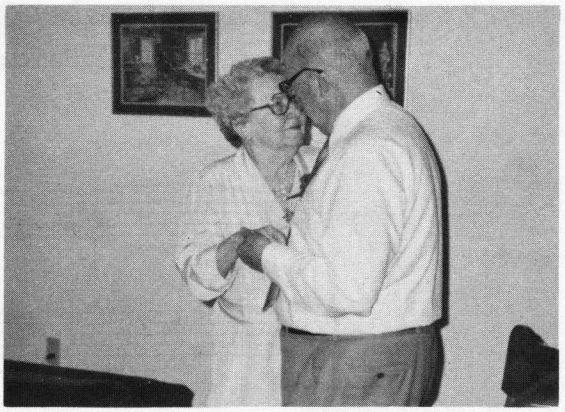
BOB SEELEY Plays Tuesday to Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., at Charley's Crab Restaurant, Highway 175 and Crooks Road, Troy, Michigan (a northern suburb of Detroit). Bob Seeley is in his 12th year at Charley's Crab Restaurant, which won't surprise Bash admirers of his ragtime, stride, boogie and blues styles. To confirm that Bob is playing call 313-546-4337 (home number)

CATHERINE WILSON Playing regularly at the Courtyard Cafe, Windsor Arms Hotel, Monday to Saturday, 7 p.m.-11 p.m..

DICK WELLSTOOD "Dick Wellstride", as Ralph Sutton calls him, is the house pianist at Hanratty's (see Manhattan address and phone number under DICK HYMAN). Check the New Yorker night life section in advance to make sure he's not on the road.

TEX WYNDHAM appearing with his RED LION JAZZ BAND the first Friday of each month, 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., The Haberdashery, 8th and King Streets, Wilmington, Delaware.

Photos by Isabelle Stewart



Now how could SOMETHING DOING overlook two Ragtimer editors at the same piano? Jack Cuff, former editor, gave a few pointers on the upper keyboard to Jack Hutton on the occasion of the Cuff's 50th wedding anniversary last summer. In return, Hutton played "The Anniversary Waltz" for Jack and Jean (above, right).

Also published for
Band and Orchestra

Bantam Step

FOX TROT M.M. ♩ = 88
ONE-STEP M.M. ♩ = 126

By HARRY JENTES

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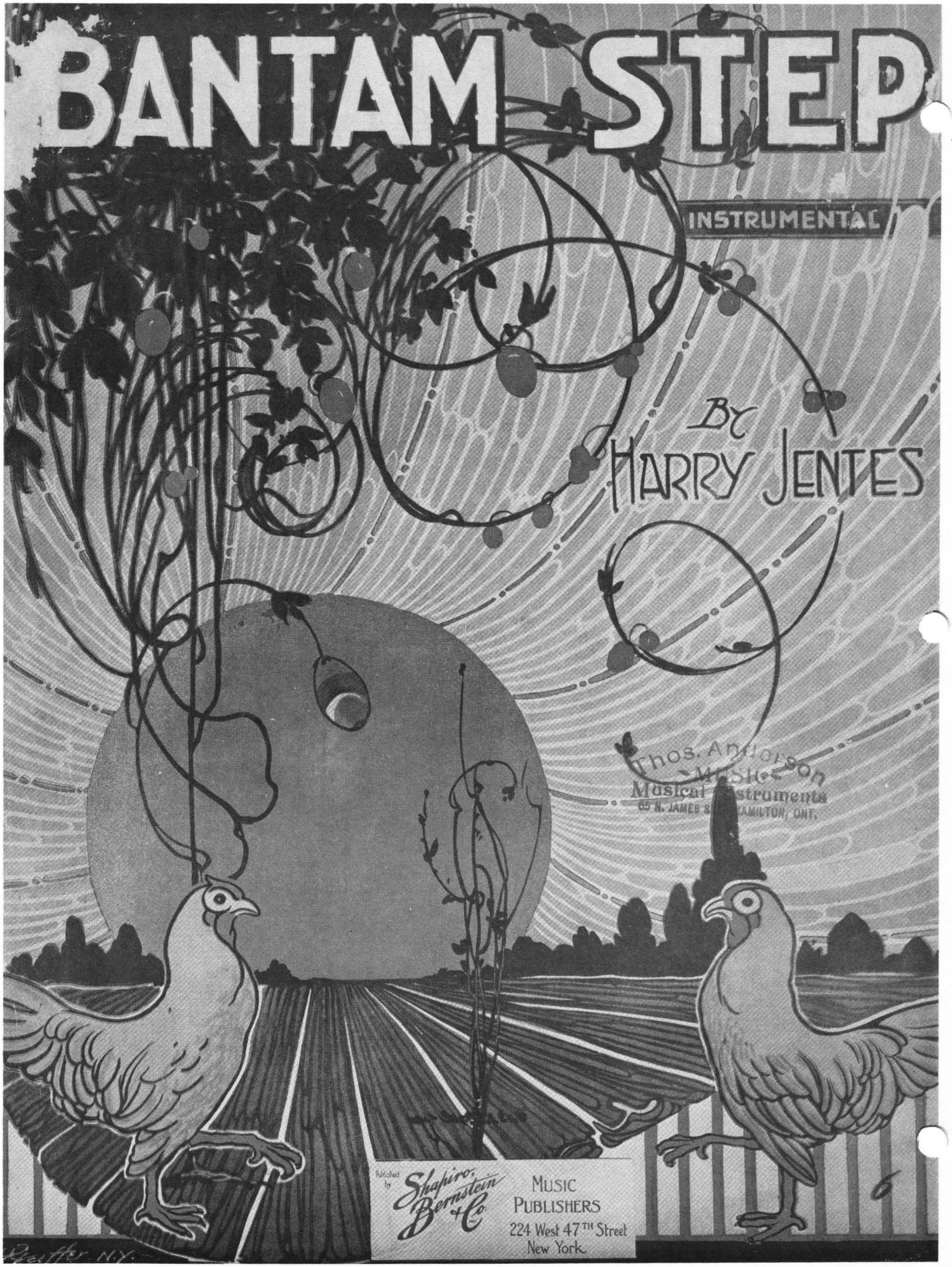
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